

IV. GOLD-MINES.

The following statement shows the value of the bullion-production, also the dividends declared, number of persons employed, and number of gold-mines and dredges :—

—	Production of Bullion, 1916.* (All Mines.)	Dividends paid, 1916. (By Registered Companies only.)	Number of Persons ordinarily employed.	Number of Working Quartz and Alluvial Mines and Dredges.
	£	£		
Quartz-mining ...	944,188	185,065	2,435	91
Dredge mining †...	125,317	9,915	392	45
Alluvial mining ‡	123,492	13,109	787	232
Totals, 1916 ...	1,192,997	208,089	3,614	368
Totals, 1915 ...	1,348,489	274,615	4,149	397

* In addition to the gold produced from the gold-mines, silver was obtained from them, hence the word "bullion" is used in preference to "gold."

† The bullion-production is from 45 dredges, but the dividends given are only from 10 of these, the property of registered companies; seventeen dredges, the property of registered companies, declared no dividends. The profits of privately owned dredges and mines are unobtainable, which renders this statement incomplete.

‡ The bullion-production is from 232 alluvial mines, but the dividends are only ascertainable from those few that are the property of registered companies.

(1.) QUARTZ-MINING.

The following is a statement showing the tons of ore treated, the value of bullion produced, and the amount of dividends paid by quartz-mining companies in each of the inspection districts during the years 1915 and 1916 :—

Inspection District.	Statute Tons of Ore treated.		Value of Bullion.		Dividends paid. (By Registered Companies only.)	
	1916.	1915.	1916.	1915.	1916.	1915.
			£	£	£	£
Northern ...	318,456	330,199	759,809	796,685	158,566	210,016
West Coast ...	121,066	151,161	183,140	231,150	26,499	27,249
Southern ...	2,840	3,269	1,239	2,689	...	...
Totals ...	442,362	484,629	944,188	1,030,524	185,065	237,265

The average value per ton of ore treated amounted to £2 2s. 8d., being an increase of 2d. above the average for 1915.

The following is a statement of the production, dividends declared, and the number of persons employed by the principal gold-quartz mining companies during 1916 :—

Name of Company.	During 1916.			Dividends paid.		Number of Persons ordinarily employed.
	Quantity of Quartz treated.	Value of Bullion.	Average Value per Ton.	1916.	Total to End of December, 1916.	
Northern District—	Statute Tons.	£	£ s. d.	£	£	
Waihi Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)*	173,420	363,612	2 1 9	99,181	5,040,514	687
Waihi Grand Junction Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	112,203	211,108	1 17 7	38,438	190,188	394
Talisman Consolidated (Ltd.) ..	16,935	81,454	4 16 2	17,250	1,047,472	220
West Coast District—						
Wealth of Nations	24,186	37,300	1 10 10	..	..	102
Blackwater Mines (Ltd.) ..	40,247	78,590	1 19 0	24,999	162,494	176
New Big River Gold-mining Company (Ltd.)	5,548	19,363	3 9 10	..	91,200	47
Other quartz-mines throughout New Zealand	69,823	152,761	2 3 9	5,197	..	809
Totals, 1916	442,362	944,188	2 2 8	185,065	Unknown	2,435

* The total value of the output of this company at the end of the year was £14,500,231. The dividends here given are free of income-tax.

Reports on the various quartz-mines by the district Inspectors of Mines are contained in Annexure A accompanying this report.